GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3761
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION
Kurup Adv. Suresh;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was represented in the committee on fishing in the 92nd and 93rd Session of ILO;

(b) if so, the details thereabout;

(c) whether the Government decided to abstain from voting on the proposed work in Fishing Convention, 2005; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the position of the Government on the proposed work in Fishing Convention?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The International Labour Conference of the ILO held in 2004 discussed the various ILO instruments which were necessary for being established to improve the safety and working conditions of persons working in the fishing sector. These discussions were held in the Conference of 2004, as a first discussion to identify the areas where suitable measures for improving safety and working conditions in the fishing sector could be specifically drawn up. The Conference then decided to discuss various instruments in the International Labour Conference of 2005.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. India along with other likeminded 138 countries, decided to abstain from the voting at the time of final record vote during 93rd Session of the ILC in June, 2005, as it was felt by developing countries that the draft Convention was very prescriptive and difficult to implement. The proposed Convention did not adequately address the concerns of the small fishermen who form bulk of the fishing sector in India. The new fishing instrument should be practicable and enforceable in countries like India with diverse ecologies and long coastlines.